Historic Preservation

QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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ANNUAL MEETING AT NEWPORT AND PROVIDENCE

Speakers' table, Great Hall, *The Breakers*. From left to right: Mrs. Carpenter, Mr. George Henry Warren, Mrs. Finley, Mr. John Nicholas Brown, Mrs. Rice, Mr. Ralph E. Carpenter, Jr., Lady Keeling, Mr. David E. Finley, Countess Laszlo Szechenyi, Sir Edward Keeling, Mrs. Robert G. Robinson, Mr. Robert Woods Bliss, Mrs. Warren; Mr. Charles Sumner Bird, Mrs. Brown, Dr. A. Hamilton Rice.

Blake Sullivan, Newport Daily News

On October 2 and 3 almost 300 delegates, members and guests of the National Trust held their annual meeting in Newport and Providence, R. I. The first item of business at the opening meeting was final voting by the predecessor and co-ordinate organization of the National Trust, the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings, to complete all preliminary legal steps to permit the Council to dissolve and surrender its corporate charter. The National Trust will assume the assets and carry on the program of the National Council.

David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who presided, reported to the members the accomplishments of the past year, and the urgency of an expanded membership to sustain a sound program in the next. A Committee on the Revision of Bylaws was appointed. Election of Mrs. Arthur Woods of Washington, D. C., and of Colonel Edgar W. Garbisch of New York City, to the Board of Trustees was announced.

H. Alexander Smith, Jr., in the absence of the Treasurer, C. F. Jacobsen, gave the Treasurer's report; and Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Chairman, the report of the Committee for Historic Preservation. Mrs. Truxtun Beale of Washington, D. C., was elected an Honorary member of the Trust. Mrs. Beale has been a leading factor in the restoration of the Basilica of San Marco in Venice, and in this country was responsible for the restoration of the Decatur House in Washington, D. C., a building designed by Benjamin H. Latrobe for Stephen Decatur in 1818. She has announced her intention of bequeathing Decatur House to the National Trust.

Memorial resolutions to two Trustees were recorded. Alexander Hamilton introduced the resolution memorializing the late George McAneny; and Charles Scarlett, Jr., read a resolution prepared by Henry H. Saylor, who was unable to attend, on the late James R. Edmunds, Jr.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Antoinette F. Downing, author and architectural historian, gave an illustrated lecture on the early architecture of Rhode Island. Luncheon was held at the Clambake Club, followed by a tour of early Newport buildings which began at the Hunter house, where a special display of the work of early Rhode Island craftsmen was on exhibit. Dr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton Rice entertained at *Miramar* at a reception following the tour.

By invitation of the Countess Laszlo Szechenyi, and under the direction of Mrs. George Henry Warren, President of the Preservation Society of Newport County, and a committee on local arrangements, the annual dinner was held in the Great Hall of *The Breakers*. Sir Edward Keeling, M.P., M.C., former mayor of Westminster and member of the Executive Committee of the English National Trust, was the principal speaker of the evening. Mrs. Robert G. Robinson, civic leader and preservationist from Louisiana, told of the efforts of numerous groups to save the old French quarter in New Orleans. Ralph Carpenter, Jr., discussed the restoration of the Hunter House, and its special furniture exhibit. Mr. Finley presided.

At Saturday morning's annual preservation forum, Ralph Nading Hill, author of *Sidewheeler Saga*, told of the reconditioning of the old steamship *Ticonderoga*, which is again cruising Lake Champlain. Charles F. Montgomery, Executive Secretary of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in Delaware, told of the coordinated program of studies of the museum and the University of Delaware leading to a degree in American Arts and Culture. J. C. Harrington, regional archaeologist of the National Park Service discussed the relation of his field to that of authentic restoration. Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Director of the Trust, served as moderator and the program was opened to general discussion and reports from the floor.

The last afternoon of the meeting was devoted to a tour of historic buildings of Providence, concluding with a reception for members at the Nightingale House, home of Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholas Brown.

Mount Vernon from an old print. *Mount Vernon Ladies Association*

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Historic Annapolis inaugurated its series of guided tours of the city on September 22. By making arrangements with the organization in advance at its headquarters on 64 State Circle, visitors will be guided through private homes, the historic State House, the Naval Academy, the Hammond-Harwood House and other historic and architectural monuments of the city. Tours are not held every day, and only a limited number of reservations are accepted.

Although only established in 1951, the Georgia Historical Commission in its first year erected 300 historical markers in the state. They are at present actively engaged in restoring the Chief Vann House at Spring Place for future use as a Cherokee museum, and the office building of Dr. Crawford W. Long at Jefferson, as a memorial to a pioneer in the discovery and use of anaesthesia. Archaeological investigations of the Etowah Mounds owned by the Commission, and of Spanish mission sites along the Georgia coast are also in progress.

Governor Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts was the principal speaker at ceremonies held at Old Sturbridge Village, marking the dedication of the museum village to the people of New England.

Special school sessions from September 1 to March 15 are being planned by the School Services section of Colonial Williamsburg. During the season, school groups planning to visit the restored colonial capital of Virginia will be given special group admission rates to exhibition buildings, escort services for groups of ten or more, special rates for overnight lodging and for meals. To prepare classes for the trip, free materials for classroom study will be sent, a small lending library will be forwarded for a two week period without charge, and for a nominal charge, color slides or Kodachrome sound films will be made available. Advance bookings of at least one month are required.

Peabody Museum of Salem, Mass. dedicated an addition to the building on September 11, of which Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield was donor. It contains the Francis B. Crowninshield Gallery and Loring Memorial Room. A reproduction of the cabin saloon of George Crowninshield's yacht, *Cleopatra's Barge* (launched in 1816), a small room containing a display of ship Lowestoft, and two other rooms with Crowninshield portraits, furniture and memorabilia are in the wing.

State House, Annapolis, one of buildings on the tours sponsored by Historic Annapolis. *M. E. Warren*

J. C. Harrington, regional archaeologist of the National Park Service is author of "Archaeology and Local History" in the *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History*, Volume II, number 6.

Twelve historic houses in Stonington, Conn., and two fishing vessels for which the village is famous, were opened to the public under the auspices of the Stonington Historical Society. Proceeds from the tour will be used to restore the Arcade, a Greek revival structure on Water St. used as offices by whaling captains since the 1830's.

HASTINGS FUND STUDY

Frederick R. King, President of the Helen and Thomas Hastings Fund, Inc., has announced a grant for the study of preservation problems to National Trust member, Stuart Barnette, professor of architecture at Cornell University. He is to prepare the first phase of a basic report on effective measures for the preservation of historic buildings threatened with destruction. His initial study will concentrate on the effects of urban and rural highway programs on historic sites and buildings.

During the year, Mr. Barnette will also conduct studies of the historical architecture of the British West Indies for the State Department. He will continue his work with the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science (a Trust member), on a restoration of the Llambia house.

An advisory committee has been appointed to work with Mr. Barnette, and to give him the assistance of preservation groups. Ronald F. Lee, Secretary of the National Trust, has been designated by the Board of Trustees to represent it on the board.

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MOUNT VERNON CENTENNIAL

October 24 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, the first women's patriotic organization in the United States. In 1858, when John Augustine Washington, a great-grandnephew of General Washington, offered the *Mount Vernon* estate for sale, first to the United States Government, and then to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and was refused by both, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina appealed to the women of the country to save the home of the Father of his country.

This group of women raised a sum of $200,000 for the purpose and holds the property by charter from Virginia. The members of the Board of Regents are chosen from the states and serve for life without salary. The farewell address of the First Regent, Miss Cunningham, in 1874, looked forward to this centennial, and foreshadowed the dedicated manner in which her charge to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has been faithfully met: "The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the home of Washington, of the completion of a worthy tribute to public integrity and private virtue, an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such as important part in the drama of the world, conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting places of their honored dead, where only pious hands are permitted to be in charge, so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

"Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the home and tomb of Washington, the Father of his Country, from all change, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of *Mount Vernon*, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such are we bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion and the grounds around it should be religiously guarded from change—should be kept as Washington left them.

"Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge—see to it that you keep it the home of Washington. Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hand desecrate it with the fingers of progress. Those who go to the home in which he lived and died wish to see in what he lived and died. Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from change. Upon you rests this duty.

"When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home, till the hearthstone seems to have no resting place in America, let them see that we know how to care for the home of our hero. Farewell!"

It has been millions, not thousands, who have come to the home of Washington. Today under the guidance of Mrs. Thomas I. Hare Powel, eighth Regent, and Charles C. Wall, the Resident Superintendent, the mansion and grounds of *Mount Vernon* remain "as Washington left them," through a scholarly and careful program of restoration and maintenance.

On the occasion of its long-anticipated centennial, a very young National Trust extends its warmest congratulations to a pioneer of preservation organizations—the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

H. D. B.

NED J. BURNS, 1900 - 1953

No harder task comes to hand than to record the passing of a friend. On October 12th Ned J. Burns, the Chief of the Museum Division of the National Park Service, died after a brief illness. That he was a long-time member of the National Trust is simply to record a fact. Behind the fact was a continuous service to this organization during the last five years. Again and again, the Headquarters staff turned to Ned Burns for advice, simply because it was recognized here, as it was throughout the museum world, that he was an outstanding technician who combined extraordinary knowledge with great common sense. His early work at the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of the City of New York prepared him for the job of setting up a museum section of the Park Service. There not only did he create a whole chain of museums but he wrote the excellent *Field Manual for Museums*, now unfortunately out of print. He left many physical monuments that bear witness to his artistry. More important, possibly, he powerfully influenced scores of men and women who are the better for having known him and who now must carry on without him.—F. L. R., Jr.

HEIGOLD HOUSE

Rescued from the city dump through the determined efforts of National Trust member Walter Creese, associate professor of art history at the University of Louisville, and by George A. Hendon, Jr., an executive assistant to the Mayor, the facade of the famous house of stone-cutter Charles H. Heigold is being re-erected in Thurston Park. In appealing to local citizens and civic authorities to save this architectural curiosity, and in asking and obtaining support of the National Trust, Mr. Creese wrote:

"Many Louisvillians have heard of the house, but few seem to have seen it. We hope to remedy this by moving it closer to the River Road where it could become a park feature in conjunction with the Paget house and the Water Tower.

"The other question, is it architecture or merely an oddity? requires more thought. We cannot properly picture the conditions which caused Mr. Heigold to carve this facade unless we think back to the Revolution of 1848 in Germany, the Louisville Know-Nothing Riots against the Germans and Irish of 1855 and to the celebration at the Jefferson County courthouse on Washington's Birthday, 1861. Mr. Heigold had been employed on the courthouse as a stonemason. Buchanan was the nominal leader of the opposition to Know-Nothingism. The political atmosphere was tense, the war between the North and South was threatening. Mr. Heigold wanted to tell the world how he felt about all this. Thus, the names of Buchanan, George Washington and the Union appear several times on the facade and thus the style of the sculpture is emphatic and touched up with painting. It is certainly not a curiosity in a half-humorous, half-trifling sense, like a trinket. Within its limits it is sincere and serious.

"Mr. Heigold was not an architect, it is true. He was a craftsman who probably picked up his models for doors and windows from architectural handbooks of the time. At this period everybody did it, even men like Shryock and Whitestone. What we may miss in the composition is the sense of larger proportion and the relief of bare spaces which are commonly associated with professional examples of the neo-classic style. But Mr. Heigold was not a rich man and his house plan had to be of the narrow-chested, single room back, hallless type, responding to the same economic conditions as the shotgun houses. He had only so much surface on the front with which to improve and, like so many naive artists, he apparently was more entranced by the details he was carving than with the whole effect of the composition.

"I should prefer to think that the best reason for saving it is that an object like this can reawaken the past immediately and vividly. It is not essentially an oddity. Instead, let's call it and make it a keepsake for the community."

Facade of Heigold House being re-erected in City Park.
Courier-Journal

DESTRUCTION

Charlottesville, Va.—Over the protests of the Civic League and the Albemarle County Historical Society, and a majority of the registered voters of the city, the 103-year-old Norris House in the Courthouse Square area was razed to provide a limited amount of downtown parking. The Civic League had offered to compensate the parking concessionaire for the loss of one year's revenue while funds were raised and a program inaugurated to maintain the ante-bellum structure as a city and county museum and tourist information center.

Lake Mills, Iowa—Ole Foley's log cabin, built by pioneer settlers north of Lake Mills in 1865 when they homesteaded in the section, is being razed. The solid, squared wooden timbers are to be used to construct a chicken house.

Massilon, Ohio—The old two-story brick building originally owned by James Duncan, founder of the city, after having been used for some years as a shop, is to be razed to make way for a modern business establishment.

St. Louis, Mo.—The Coliseum, which has served for many years as the royal court of the Veiled Prophet at the coronation of the Queen of Love and Beauty and which was the meeting place of the Democratic National Convention nominating Woodrow Wilson for his second presidential term, has been razed. It was condemned by city authorities.

Forty Acres, the noted Porter-Phelps-Huntington House in Hadley, Mass., now open to the public faces an uncertain future. *Samuel Chamberlain*

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

New York, N. Y.—Trinity Church has developed a plan for preserving the character of the old area around St. Luke's Chapel in Greenwich Village. According to the program announced by Dr. John Heuss, the west and north ranges had deteriorated to a point of such extreme hazard that they will be replaced by suitably designed new buildings. The entire east and major portion of the south range will be preserved and enhanced and used for an educational group. The remaining old buildings of the area will be continued in residential use.

Salem, Ore.—Municipal authorities have set aside the 75-year-old Bush Pasture park as a museum and art center, and have contracted with the Salem Art Association to operate it. The association owns $10,000 worth of the original Bush furnishings including large gold mirrors, a portrait of Asahel Bush, the builder of the house, a rosewood piano and several bedroom suites.

St. Louis, Mo.—Restoration and repair of portions of the interior of the Old Courthouse (1845) on Market Street, in which Dred Scott first sued for his freedom, are now under way. The Old Courthouse houses the headquarters of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, a unit of the National Park Service.

Leadville, Col.—Baby Doe Tabor's cabin near the Matchless mine has been furnished with copies of the meager possessions which Baby Doe, wife of the one-time mining king, used in the last years of her life, and which were looted by vandals after her death in 1935. The Leadville Assembly has opened the cabin to the public.

Constantine, Mich.—Governor James Stewart Barry's house (1835-36) has been opened to the public as a community center under the auspices of the Governor Barry Historical Society. The purpose of the society is "to discover, collect and preserve historical matters, papers and objects, and to promote civic advancement and provide social service."

Rochester, N. Y.—The George Eastman House has been given the motion picture collection of the late Theodore Huff, writer, film historian, and internationally known authority on early film production, by Mrs. Marianne Huff as a memorial to her son. It contains more than 30,000 still photographs, a large library of original music scores for silent films, and many rare and out-of-print books on motion pictures in this country and abroad.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

North Carolina—In September, the first meeting of the Historic Sites Commission authorized by Session Laws of North Carolina, Chapter 1197, met in the office of the Governor. Among the six commissioned was Christopher Crittenden, a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust. Dr. Crittenden was named ex-officio secretary of the commission. Under the act the state is authorized to make appropriations from the contingency and emergency funds of the state for acquisition of approved historic sites and buildings. The Commission is charged with the responsibility of establishing criteria for evaluating properties eligible for state aid. The criteria adopted on a state-wide basis are not unlike those regulating acceptance of properties by the National Trust to administer on a national basis, on approval of its Committee of Standards and Surveys.

Virginia—The 350th anniversary of "the founding of Jamestown, first permanent English settlement in America, 1607; the flowering of Colonial Virginia culture and statesmanship in Williamsburg on the eve of and during the Revolution; and the final winning of our American Independence at Yorktown on October 19, 1781," are to be celebrated with a program directed by a federally created Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown Celebration Commission. As finally approved by Congress on August 13, the Commission will consist of 11 members, 2 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, 1 member from the Department of Interior who will serve as executive officer, 6 members appointed by the President in consideration of recommendations to be made by the Governor of Virginia.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Lexington, Va.—The Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., initiated a $100,000 fund-raising campaign to purchase the only home owned by General Jackson, which is being sold by the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital. The initial sum will be used to acquire and restore the house, and collect Jackson possessions for display within it; the long-range plans include a research center on his life and times, with scholarships and other awards to encourage study and publication. The president, Jay W. Johns, of Charlottesville, Va., is organizing a second Stonewall Brigade, which members can join for $5.00—for a $100 contribution, they become Colonels.

Salem, Ore.—Old Parsonage, the city's second oldest building, built by the Rev. Gustavus Hines in 1841, may be saved by the Marion County Historical Society, which proposes to move it to Marion Square.

Somers, N. Y.—Rahnee, a baby elephant, laid a wreath at the foot of the statute of Old Bet, America's first circus elephant, whicth stands in front of the Elephant Hotel, the Somers Town Hall. This ceremony and a miniature circus, a Yorktown Grange Fair and other events were planned to raise funds to insure the preservation of the Old Tomahawk Street Methodist Church.

Wood-Ridge, N. J.—The oldest house in town, the Brinkerhoff house, is being saved by the borough of Wood-Ridge as an historic landmark, and is being converted into a war memorial library. Edgar I. Williams, A.I.A., is architect of the project.

Richmond, Va.—With a gift of $20,000 from the Old Dominion Foundation, the Valentine Museum is planning to re-erect the Bransford-Cecil Memorial House as an addition to its present building group. This gift, with pledges and contributions already raised, leaves only $6,610 to be obtained in the campaign for $60,000, and is contingent upon the sum being raised from outside sources.

Tuscumbia, Ala.—Helen Keller's birthplace is to be preserved as the Helen Keller Shrine by the state of Alabama. The House of Representatives passed a $10,000 appropriation bill for the purpose.

North Andover, Mass.—A placque honoring Colonel Samuel Osgood, first Postmaster General of the United States, was unveiled at his birthplace on September 12.

Siskiyou, Calif.—St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sawyer's Bar, the oldest church in the extreme north of the state, is to be restored. It was built in 1854 and was nearly destroyed in 1900 when an effort to mine gold on its site was blocked by a court order forbidding in perpetuity any mining activity there.

INTERNATIONAL

Italy—The great conventual church of St. Clare, which pre-dated the Christian era by several centuries, was reopened late this summer with great ceremonies, ten years after its interior had been ravaged in one of the severest Allied air raids of the war. In broadcasting to the Neapolitans on the reopening of the great church for worship, the Pope stated, "You, who only ten years ago mourned this church as a ruin, now have the felicity to see it restored in the calm austerity of pointed arches and rose windows as in Angevin times."

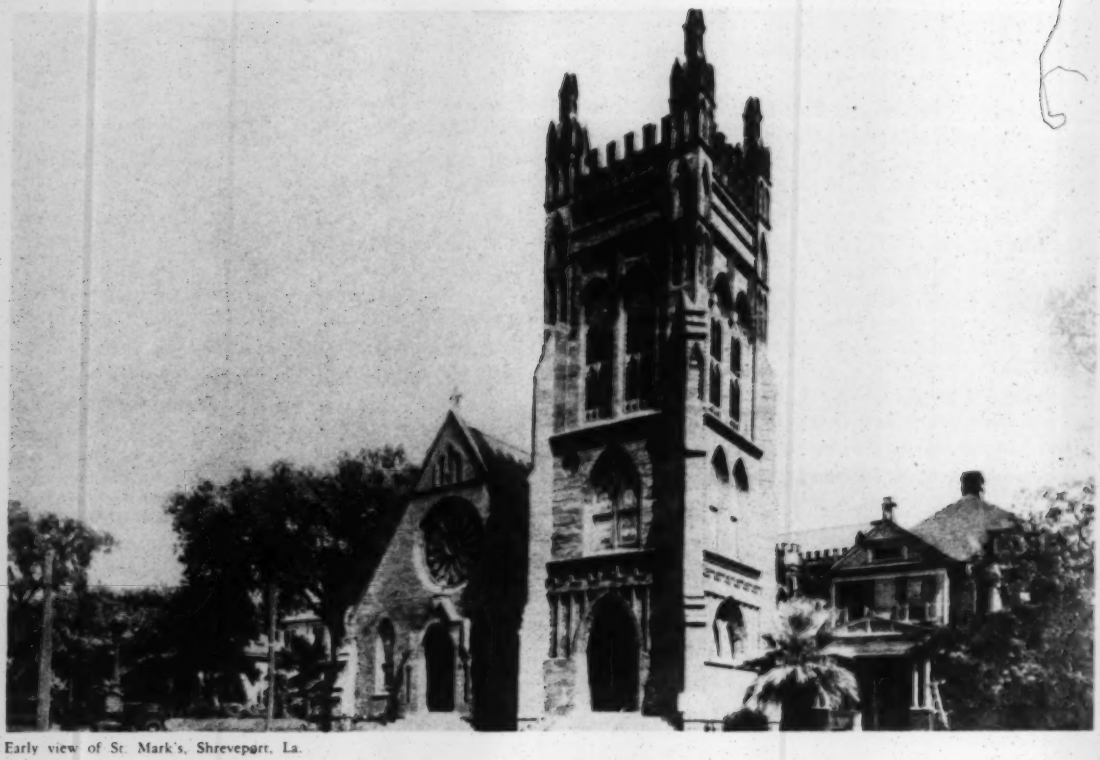
Canada—City authorities of Quebec exercise strict control over the modernizing, or even the repainting of the structures, in the historic portion of the walled city. Of the 1238 buildings standing when the British took over the city from the French about 200 years ago, 1114 still stand. These are protected by historical societies and also business organizations which cater to Quebec's large tourist industry.

Greece—Under the general direction of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, work has begun on reconstruction of the Stoa of Attalus. The building dominated the old Agora market, which was the administrative and business center of the city. It will take four years to complete the reconstruction of The Stoa, with its two-storied market hall of 21 single-room shops with a continuous porch supported by two rows of columns. It was built about 150 B.C. by King Attalus II of Pergamon, who presented it to the city. It will be an archeaological museum housing finds excavated in the city by scholars from the United States in the past 20 years.

New Zealand—Legislation leading to the creation of a National Historic Places Trust was considered at a session of the New Zealand House of Representatives in its recent session. A proposal to create a preservation group, modeled upon the structure of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U. S. was introduced by Mr. Duncan Rae, M.P. Fundamental features of the bill, developed after correspondence with the National Trust here, and in consultation with historic groups in New Zealand provide that it should be a non-governmental agency, based on wide public participation and control, with 3 of the 12 members of its Trust Board serving by Ministerial nomination. Other groups represented would be the University of New Zealand, the art galleries, the Institute of Architects, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the New Zealand Libraries Association, and Maori representatives.

Shreveport, La.—Parts of the chapel of the first Episcopal church, dating back to March 24, 1839, when the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk held the first religious service in English in the city, are part of the present building at the corner of Texas Avenue and Cot-

IN DANGER



Early view of St. Mark's, Shreveport, La.

ton Street. A small and devoted group of parishioners of St. Mark's Episcopal Church are now trying to save the building by forming a mission and continuing to maintain services. The property is commercially valuable and the vestry is considering selling it to be razed and used for other purposes.

Norfolk, Va.—Finlay F. Ferguson, Jr., A.I.A., a National Trust member from Norfolk, is leading the movement protesting destruction of the ante-bellum Courthouse to make room for needed new civic facilities. Mr. Ferguson in his letter to the editors of local papers stated, "Norfolk's Court House, built in the late 1840's, has both considerable architectural merit and dignity, qualities now becoming rare in new public buildings. Not to consider this building as an integral part of the new civic group would indeed be a tragic loss to the historic past of Norfolk, and just plain bad and untrained civic planning. By all means plan for the future, but the few ancient buildings we do possess should most certainly be preserved."

Hadley, Mass.—Historic Porter-Phelps-Huntington House faces an uncertain future after having been in the possession of the same family for ten generations since its erection in 1752. The Association which has supported the effort to keep this fine Connecticut River house, and its undisturbed, accumulated furniture, furnishings and documents, open to students of the nearby colleges and to the public, has set May 1, 1954, as the last date the house will remain open unless additional support can be found.

Atlanta, Ga.—Huff house, the "House of Three Flags" which was the center of vast military operations in the Atlanta campaign of the Civil War, may be leveled to make room for a toy factory, unless efforts of the Georgia Educational Exchange to raise funds for its preservation are successful.

Detroit, Mich.—At the Michigan Society of Architects meeting, S. Howell Taylor, of the Detroit Chapter of the A.I.A. Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings, introduced a resolution opposing the threatened destruction of the old Wayne County Building and the Mariner's Church.

St. Albans, W. Va.—An old log inn on the James River and Kanawha Turnpike where Henry Clay and other notables stopped has been declared a fire risk by the state fire marshal, and has been ordered razed. Dr. Arthur Lotus Hughes, a retired Methodist minister, who lives in the structure with his elderly wife and invalid son, is trying to raise funds to save it.